The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Existence would be intolerable if we were never to dream.—Anatole France.

WHOLE NO. 1351 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 1937 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 27, NO. 10

Loyalty to American Federation of Labor Principles Is Demanded By A. F. of L. Executive Council

Extension of Support to Committee for Industrial Organization, Which the Tampa Convention Decided Is a Dual Union Existing as a Rival to the American Federation of Labor, Will Not Be Tolerated, President Green Declares.

"The Issue Raised Over the Industrial Form of Organization in Mass Production Industries is Completely Eclipsed by the Dominant Issue of Democratic Control and Democratic Procedure Within the Organized Labor Movement."

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The time has come when all A. F. of L. unions, national, state and local, and their members "are called upon to draw a line and to make a distinction between the American Federation of Labor and the Committee for Industrial Organization," William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor said in a letter sent by direction of the A. F. of L. Executive Council to the officers and members of all affiliated organizations.

The necessity for this action, Mr. Green declared, has been brought about by the fact that the Committee for Industrial Organization was established with the avowed purpose of overriding majority rule in the organized labor movement of the United States by a minority group, and that the C. I. O. has persisted in this undemocratic policy from the time of its organization to date despite the endeavors of the Executive Council to adjust the controversy.

Pointing out that the Committee for Industrial Organization had refused to set up a committee to meet with a committee named by the A. F. of L. Executive Council for the purpose of devising ways and means to settle the dispute and thus bring about solidarity of labor, Mr. Green said that the only possible interpretation of the refusal of the C. I. O. to appoint a committee "is that said organization is still determined to carry out its original declared purpose to impose the substitution of minority rule for majority control within the organized labor movement."

Asserting that it has been the traditional policy of the American Federation of Labor to recognize both the craft and industrial form of organization, Mr. Green held that the issue raised on the industrial form of organization is nothing but a smoke screen to camouflage the deliberate attempt of the C. I. O. to destroy the institutions of democracy and government by the majority in the labor movement.

The text of Mr. Green's letter follows:

"To the Officers and Members of All Organizations Affiliated with the American Federation of Labor:

"Greeting:

"The American Federation of Labor has been established for fifty-six years. It was founded by men who were devoted to the principles of organized labor. It has lived and functioned for more than half a century. In spite of the opposition of those who have sought to substitute a new economic philosophy, such as the Industrial Workers of the World, the One Big Union, and other organizations of this type, the American Federation of Labor has grown in numbers and influence and has written a record of achievement.

"It is the labor movement of our fathers. It is an institution firmly established in the economic, social and industrial life of the nation. It is the movement to which men and women have given their lives, and it is the movement to which millions of working men and women have sworn allegiance.

"The officers and members of the American Federation of Labor pioneered in organizing work. One hundred and fourteen national and international unions have been chartered; forty-nine state federations of labor and seven hundred and thirty-four central labor unions have been formed. As a result, the influence and standing of the American Federation of Labor reaches out into every state, city, village and community.

Majority Rule Is Challenged

"The standing of the American Federation of Labor, its existence as the parent body of organized labor in the United States, and its supremacy were challenged by those who set up the Committee for Industrial Organization following the adjournment of the Fifty-Fifth Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor which was held at Atlantic City, New Jersey, in October, 1935.

"Those who participated in the formation of the Committee for Industrial Organization declared that it was their avowed purpose to substitute the minority decision of the Fifty-Fifth Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor for the expressed decision of the majority. To that end they initiated a new movement designed to substitute minority decisions for majority rule in the Organized Labor Movement of the United States.

"That means that the question at issue in the controversy existing between the Committee for Industrial Organization and the American Federation of Labor is democratic principles, democratic procedure and the democratic determination of administrative and organization policies by conventions of the American Federation of Labor.

Industrial Unionism Is False Issue

"The issue raised over the industrial form of organization in mass production industries is completely eclipsed by the dominant issue of democratic control and democratic procedure within the Organized Labor Movement.

"This becomes increasingly clear and definite when the facts show that it has ever been the policy of the American Federation of Labor to apply both the industrial and craft form of organization in its organizing activities, as circumstances require and conditions permit. The economic and industrial interests of the workers alone determine the organization policies adopted and applied by the American Federation of Labor. Its philosophy proclaims the necessity of protecting both the skilled and unskilled worker and of making it possible, through organization, to enable the skilled worker to commercialize his skill, his genius and his training to the highest degree.

"The interest of the American Federation of Labor in the organization of both the skilled and the unskilled worker is identical. The record shows that every opportunity has been accorded to all groups of workers, regardless of skill or training, to become organized and through organization secure for all workers the highest wages and best conditions of employment which are within the realm of possibility.

"During all the months which have intervened since the Committee for Industrial Organization was formed, the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor has sought to bring about a settlement.

C. I. O. Refuses to Appoint Conference Committee

"A standing committee of the Executive Council was created for the purpose of meeting with a committee from the Committee for Industrial Organization, with the hope that through conference and discussion a settlement could be reached and labor throughout the country thoroughly united. But the Committee for Industrial Organization refused to appoint a committee or to assign a committee to meet with the standing committee of the Executive Council. This committee of the Executive Council is still waiting for a conference. It cannot confer, however, with a committee from the Committee for Industrial Organization because said organization will not appoint a committee.

"The interpretation, therefore, which must be placed upon this refusal of the Committee for Industrial Organization to meet and confer with the representatives of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor is that said organization is still determined to carry out its original declared purpose to impose the substitution of minority rule for majority control within the Organized Labor Movement.

Disruptionist Challenge Must Be Met

"After reviewing the situation existing in state federations of labor and city central bodies in some localities, and after taking into account the confusion which has been created in the minds of working people and their friends, the Executive Council decided to call upon all organizations affiliated with the American Federation of Labor and all its friends to meet the challenge which has been offered to the American Federation of Labor.

"In the opinion of the Executive Council, the time has arrived when organizations chartered by the American Federation of Labor and in affiliation with the American Federation of Labor must renew their allegiance and devotion to the philosophy, the principles and the policies of the American Federation of Labor. Representatives of the American Federation of Labor, state federations of labor, city central labor unions and local unions are called upon to draw a line and to make a distinction between the American Federation of Labor and the Committee for Industrial Organization.

Support of Dual Group Condemned

"The Executive Council decided that the Committee for Industrial Organization was a dual union existing as a rival to the American Federation of Labor. The Fifty-Sixth Annual Convention which was held at Tampa, Florida, last November decided likewise; it confirmed the action taken by the Executive Council.

"New state federations of labor, city central bodies and local unions chartered by and in affiliation with the American Federation of Labor must decide whether they will be loyal to the parent body, the great American Federation of Labor, or give support to an organization which is classified as dual and rival to the American Federation of Labor both by the Executive Council and a convention of the American Federation of Labor. The issue is made clear and the line is drawn. Workers can not be for both the American Federation of Labor and the Committee for Industrial Organization.

"The Executive Council therefore calls upon the officers of national and international unions, organizers of the American Federation of Labor, both volunteer and otherwise, the officers and members of state federations of labor, city central bodies and local unions to renew their pledge of loyalty and devotion to the American Federation of Labor and to the principles and policies which it represents. In the issue which has arisen between the American Federation of Labor and the Committee for Industrial Organization there can be but one attitude which all can assume as members of the American Federation of Labor; it must be uncompromising support of the American Federation of Labor.

A. F. of L. Unions Will Be Protected

"It is the purpose and intention of the Executive Council to consider statements made by the representatives of organizations affiliated with the American Federation of Labor and to keep in close touch with official actions taken by all organizations, including state federations of labor and central labor unions, which have been chartered by the American Federation of Labor.

"It is the firm determination of the Council to take such action as the facts may justify in order to protect and preserve the highest and best interests of the American Federation of Labor.

"The Executive Council can not and will not tolerate the extension of support to any organization classified by the Executive Council and a convention of the American Federation of Labor as being a dual and rival organization to the American Federation of Labor.

"In the name of and in behalf of the Executive Council I call upon all national and international unions and subordinate units of the American Federation of Labor to give loyal support to it, to conform to its laws, rules and procedure, and to defend and protect it against attacks or onslaughts from either an outside organization or its representatives, classified as a dual organization and as rival to the American Federation of Labor.

"By direction of the Executive Council, American Federation of Labor.

"WM. GREEN,
"President."

EDITORIAL

TITLE INSURANCE RACKET HIT IN PENNSYLVANIA

The real estate title insurance business, long in the hands of private corporations in many states, although plainly a public function, has worked especial hardships, through the charging of stiff fees, upon wage earners and others of small income who have attempted to buy a home.

Now comes a proposal to remedy this situation in Pennsylvania, which bids fair to render a real public service and to receive serious consideration in other States.

John B. Kelly, State Secretary of Revenue for Pennsylvania, has announced that he will sponsor legislation designed to reduce the cost of real estate title insurance to less than one-fifth of the fee being asked by private corporations. Under his proposed title insurance act, a minimum fee of about $10 would be established, as compared with the present minimum fee, including title search and settlement, of $55 on property sold for $2,000 or less, with an additional one and one-half per cent on all over $2,000.

It is generally recognized that virtually every home buyer pays the title insurance fee. If the purchaser pays for his property entirely in cash, he may dispense with title insurance if he chooses, but few do. But if he has to get a part of the purchase money on mortgage, the mortgage holder always insists upon title insurance. If a property happens to change hands twice or more in the same year, under present practice in Pennsylvania, the title insurance company can collect the full fee more than once in a year; and on a property that happens to change hands often its entire value may eventually be paid out in title insurance. In discussing the situation in Pennsylvania, Secretary Kelly said:

> "I think the time has come to take this expensive load off the backs of the people who buy real estate. At present private corporations control this function, which is so decidedly a public function that the people of the Commonwealth themselves adopted a constitutional amendment to deal with it. That was done 21 years ago (in 1915), but nothing else has ever been done about it.
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> "There is no reason why titles cannot be so stabilized that complications can be permanently prevented. The State easily and effectively, and at a small cost, registers titles to automobiles. It would save millions of dollars in real estate transactions by adopting a parallel system for real estate titles."

Secretary Kelly also pointed out that large profits are accruing to private corporations through title insurance, and that, while this may not in itself be any major crime, it is primarily a public function which should be handled by the public through constituted government. He also emphasized the fact that past State Legislatures have ignored the sweeping powers given in the 1915 amendment, which indicates that the private title concerns have wielded wide influence. Under the amendment, the Legislature may set up new courts or confer power on existing courts, or even empower local Recorders of Deeds, to administer title insurance provisions which might be set up under legislative authority.

Title insurance as practiced under the present private corporation system casts an especially heavy burden upon those who want to buy a home, even a small house; which means that it places undue hardship upon thrifty wage earners. Secretary Kelly's suggestion to Pennsylvania is likely to spread beyond that State as a remedy for at least one element in the high cost of homes, especially for low-income groups.

Danville Engineers Strike For Increase in Wage Rate

The Operating Engineers Local Union of Danville, Ill., called a strike of the Inter-State Water Company employes following failure of negotiations for a pay increase. The union first requested a 25 per cent increase, but later reduced it to 15 per cent with the company refusing more than 10 per cent.

Carnegie Steel Men Given 40-Hour Week

Minimum Wage of $5 Per Day Also Granted 120,000 Employes of Big U. S. Steel Corporation Subsidiary—Carnegie Officials Say Walsh-Healey Law Influenced Shorter Hours Decision—Company Union Is Retained.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The long-delayed action of the management of the Carnegie-Illinois Steel Corporation, largest subsidiary of the United States Steel Corporation, in granting a 40-hour work week with time and one-half for overtime and minimum wages of $5 per day to its 120,000 employes is a striking recognition of the justice and business applicability of the American Federation of Labor's persistent demand for shorter hours and larger earnings for American workers both in the iron and steel industry and outside of it.

It is also an equally striking justification of the reasonableness of the Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act, which stipulates that concerns awarded contracts for work for the Federal Government shall apply the 40-hour week with overtime rates for labor performed in excess of 40 hours.

The new wage schedule granted by the Carnegie-Illinois Corporation raises minimum wages for common labor from $4.20 to $5 per day, with the modification that workers now receiving less than $4.20 per day or less than 52½ cents per hour shall have their pay increased 10 cents per hour, with proportionate increases for skilled and semi-skilled labor.

Sole Bargaining Agency Banned

The agreement signed by the corporation management recognized the Steel Workers Organizing Committee as the collective bargaining agent for those employes of the corporation who are members of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers of North America, but did not recognize either the Steel Workers Committee or the Amalgamated Association as the sole bargaining agency for all of the company's employes.

Keeps Company Union

The first press reports regarding the agreement intimated that the corporation had abandoned its company union scheme, which was established and has been used to discourage its employes from enrolling in bona fide unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

This illusion was promptly dispelled in an official statement issued by the corporation which, in addition to declaring that the corporation's policy was not only against "recognizing any single group as the sole bargaining agency for all employes," definitely stated the "status of the employe representation plan," which is the corporation's mellifluous phrase used in preference to the plainer and more adequately descriptive term "company union," will continue as the spokesman of the employes who "prefer" to use it instead of real trade union collective bargaining.

The agreement also includes a pledge that the corporation will not discriminate against employes because of union affiliation. In addition to this agreement pledge, the official statement issued by the management of the corporation said that "the company will recognize any individual or group or organization as the spokesman for those employes whom they represent, but will not recognize any single organization or group as the exclusive bargaining agency for all the employes."

Other Companies Reduce Hours

Other steel companies which have recently announced similar action to that of the Carnegie Steel Corporation, and the number of men involved, include: National Steel, 20,000; Bethlehem, 85,000; Republic, 52,000; Youngstown Sheet and Tube, 16,000; Inland Steel, 9,000; National Tube, another U. S. Steel subsidiary, 8,000; Pittsburgh Steel, 7,000; Sharon Steel, Wheeling Steel, Continental Steel and the Otis Steel; Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation, 25,000.

Some observers claim that the demand of organized labor for reduction in hours and increase in wages in the steel industry was materially influenced by a conference which President Roosevelt had with Myron C. Taylor, chairman of the United States Steel Corporation, eight or nine weeks ago.

It is well known that the President was definitely in favor of the provision in the Walsh-Healey Act stipulating the 40-hour week on Government work.

Steel Firms Opposed Walsh-Healey Act

It was about this time that rumors began to spread that many corporations would refuse to bid on Government work as long as the 40-hour provision was mandatory. A little later the steel manufacturing corporations refused to bid on steel required by the Navy Department for the construction of naval vessels, allegedly because of the 40-hour rule.

According to the terms of the Walsh-Healey Act, Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins is authorized to exempt contractors from the hours provision of the Act if an emergency warrants such exemption. A deluge of influence was unlimbered on Miss Perkins in favor of the exemption in order that the Navy might not be embarrassed in the development of its armament program.

Labor Insists on 40 Hours

At this time the American Federation of Labor and other labor groups entered the controversy with definite declarations against the exemption. The Executive Council of the A. F. of L., in session in Washington, expressed definite and unanimous opposition to the proposal.

It was also intimated that the Department of Justice might undertake an investigation with regard to possible illegal collusion by the steel companies in what appeared to be an agreement not to submit bids for steel products required by the Government unless they were freed from the restrictions of the Walsh-Healey Act.

At the same time definite proposals were made for the operation of the Government armor plate factory built at South Charleston, West Va., during the World War. The plant cost $25,000,000, but was never operated and most of the machinery has been moved to other naval shops. But with the fight which the steel companies were making against the 40-hour-week provision of the Walsh-Healey Act, Federal authorities began compiling estimates on the funds which would be required to produce the Navy's steel requirements.

Steel Corporations Capitulate

When these combined forces of the organized labor movement and the Government seemed linked together for the complete application of the hours provision of the Walsh-Healey Act to contracts for steel products required by the Government, the Carnegie Illinois Steel Corporation announced the reduction of the basic work week to 40 hours, increased wages, and extra pay for overtime, along with the significant statement that the adoption of the shorter work week "is made necessary in order to qualify for government contracts under the Walsh-Healey bill."

Navy Re-advertises for Bids

In Washington, Assistant Secretary of the Navy Charles Edison, immediately upon receipt of the information that the leading steel company had adopted the 40-hour week moved to re-advertise for bids on 25,000,000 pounds of steel which is urgently needed for naval construction and which the Navy has tried without success since December to buy because of the refusal of the steel manufacturers to submit bids with the 40-hour week proviso. It was pointed out that the agreement of the 40-hour week by the larger steel producers would probably be followed with similar action by other industries supplying naval construction materials. The opinion was also expressed that the opposition to the Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act has definitely dwindled to an unimportant point.

(From March 1 issue of A. F. of L. Weekly News Service Supplement)

E. N. NOCKELS, CHICAGO LABOR LEADER, IS DEAD

Was Secretary of Chicago Federation of Labor and Manager of Radio Station WCFL-W9XAA.

Chicago, Ill. (AFLNS).—Edward N. Nockels, secretary of the Chicago Federation of Labor and manager of labor's radio station WCFL-W9XAA, popularly known as "The Voice of Labor," dropped dead in Maxwell's restaurant here, February 27. He had not been ill and was planning to go to Washington, D. C., the next day to carry on his fight before the Federal Communications Commission for an additional wave length for the radio station.

Mr. Nockels had been secretary of the Chicago Federation of Labor for thirty-four years. He was originally an electrician and a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers of America. He was born in Dubuque, Iowa sixty-seven years ago. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Edna Caldwell Nockels, whom he married in 1896. She is an invalid.

Active in national labor affairs for many years, he was the trusted representative in Chicago of the late Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor. He was also the friend of William Green, the present A. F. of L. president.

Maxwell's restaurant, 404 South Wabash Avenue, was a regular eating place for Mr. Nockels and his friends, and on Saturday afternoon he went there for luncheon. At the conclusion of the meal his friends departed, but Mr. Nockels remained, saying he had eaten no breakfast and intended to order more food. While reading at his table he complained of not feeling well and went up a flight of stairs to the washroom, where he was stricken.

The restaurant proprietor summoned Dr. John Foster of the Congress hotel, who pronounced the labor leader dead of heart attack.

SAN FRANCISCO UNIONS WANT PICKETING ORDINANCE ENDED

By A. F. of L. News Service.

A big campaign to repeal the anti-picketing ordinance of San Francisco, Calif., is being carried on by the organized labor movement of that city.

The ordinance was enacted twenty years ago when a group of union labor haters combined to fight organized labor and the workers generally secured control of the city government.

They succeeded in hoodwinking the voters into approving the measure by clever use of the slogan that peaceful picketing is impossible. The policy was made effective during some of the hysteria generated by the World War. Since then organized labor in San Francisco has been deprived of the right to defend union labor living standards by the method of picketing.

A special municipal election will be held on March 9 to vote on the repeal proposal.

THE WOMAN PAYS

By A. F. of L. News Service.

There "aint no justice!" In Belfast, Northern Ireland, a five-dollar-a-week stenographer was given until 1985 to pay off a court judgment.

Damages awarded against her to another woman whom she knocked down and injured with her bicycle, amounted to $2,900.

Upon information that she was unable to "pay up" the judge ordered her to pay the fine at the rate of $1.25 a week.

J. E. Spielman, Minnesota State Printer, Is Dead

St. Paul, Minn. (AFLNS).—Organized labor in Minnesota mourns the death of State Printer Jean E. Spielman who died of pneumonia in St. Paul. From the time he came to the United States from Rumania at the age of 20 years he played an active part in the labor movement. For many years he was an organizer for the Minneapolis Trades and Labor Assembly and had been an international official of the Brotherhood of Bookbinders. At the time of his death he was president of the Twin City Bookbinders' Union.

A. F. of L. Says Idle Number 10 Million

Employers Threw One Million Into Jobless Army During January — Growing Practice of Part-Time Employment Drastically Reduces Workers' Income—Relief Agencies Required to Supplement Low Wages to Keep Toilers Alive.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The revelation in the current report on unemployment issued by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, that over one million workers were dismissed from their jobs during January because of slackening in retail trade, building and manufacturing industries and farm work presents a heartrending picture of the uncertain social security which confronts working men and women throughout the country.

Through no fault of their own, but simply because employers have built up a system under which they will not employ those who must work for their living unless there is large profit in the operation, millions of workers and their dependents are periodically thrown onto relief agencies because there are no jobs for them.

In addition, the unemployment report emphasizes the not generally known practice of part-time employment which industry imposes on large numbers of workers with weekly earnings so low that the assistance of public or private charity agencies must be sought in order to keep body and soul together for these unfortunates.

"The year 1937 opened with layoffs which added 1,001,000 to the unemployed," the A. F. of L. statement said. "This is the first time since January, 1936, that there has been any significant increase in unemployment; with the exception of small layoffs in November, employment has gained steadily for a year. From January to December 1936, 3,223,000 were added to the nation's payrolls; then came the January layoffs, decreasing this gain to 2,222,000 for the 12 months period.

"When the increase in our working population is accounted for, our estimate of the total number unemployed stands at 10,041,000 in January, 1937. This compares with 8,990,000 in December, 1936, and 11,666,000 in January, 1936.

Over Half Million Clerks Laid Off

"January and February are usually the low ebb months of the year. This is the time when demands on relief begin to be heavy when families out of work exhaust their resources so that relief need continues for the next three months.

"January is the slack month in agriculture and this year our farms laid off about 200,000 hired workers from December to January; it is the month when retail stores lay off their Christmas help, and this year stores which had taken on 492,000 workers for the busy season, laid off 552,000 in January.

"At this season, also, building and manufacturing industries reach a low point; and in January, 1937, 148,000 in manufacturing and 92,000 in building were dropped from payrolls. Seasonal dullness cost thousands of jobs in 45 of the 89 industries reporting to the Labor Department.

"The January layoffs were in general no worse this year than last, except in agriculture, where 200,000 lost their jobs this year as compared to 120,000 last year.

11 Per Cent of Union Members Jobless

"Trade union figures indicate that winter unemployment this year continued into the first part of February. Our weighted unemployment figures show 11.7 per cent of the membership unemployed in January and 11.9 per cent in February. This is opposite to the trend of last year when union employment gained in February; the rise in unemployment this year occurred in building, metal trades, printing, water transportation and among professional workers, chiefly musicians. In 10 out of 24 reporting cities unemployment was still increasing in February.

Tragedy of Part-Time Employment

"A number of developments in the employment situation call for special attention.

"First, a practice which has grown during depression of regular part-time employment in industry. Many firms are now keeping only a skeleton force of full-time workers and regularly employing part-time workers for peak periods. Department stores, for instance, employ sales girls for peak morning and afternoon sales demands, giving them about five hours a day, and keeping only a bare minimum force for full time. This means a serious cut in income for a large portion of their force.

"These part-time workers have little more than half time work and half pay. No figures as yet exist to show the extent of this practice throughout American industry. We know that it exists in factories and in transportation as well as trade. A union of railway carmen reports that their members are losing from $20 to $25 a month because of it.

Relief Agencies Subsidize Low Wages

"Secondly, the failure of industry to provide a living income for its workers is forcing relief to supplement wages to a degree not generally recognized. One large eastern city reports that in 25 per cent of its relief cases it is subsidizing industry, either by adding to low wages so that the families will have enough to keep alive or by supplementing part-time earnings.

Employers Ban Unskilled Jobless

"A third problem is also producing serious consequences; the failure of employers to cooperate with the public employment services, and their unwillingness to hire and train persons who have been on relief.

"This is making it impossible for thousands of the unemployed to recover their normal places in American industry. Although skills may be temporarily lost through long unemployment, they can be quickly restored by retraining.

"Many a responsible worker loses his chance of reemployment and many capable workmen are lost to industry through the unwillingness of employers to contribute their share in the recovery from unemployment.

Capital Forces Cut in WPA Jobs

"Pressure from capital has forced the relief administration to order a new cut in WPA employment and payrolls. After April 15, not more than 5 per cent of the persons on WPA rolls in any district shall come from non-relief sources and not more than 5 per cent shall receive wages above the security scale. This means that thousands will lose the only jobs they have and thousands more will have their pay cut.

"In this order private industry has secured what it desired—a cut in government expenses. It is now their responsibility to provide jobs for those who will otherwise be without work. They will have to do more quickly if they are going to meet this challenge, which is on their own terms and provide work before April 15.

"The latest figures show that in December 1936, 3,544,000 persons had work on WPA and PWA projects, with a total payroll of $192,292,000 for the month. In November, preliminary figures show 1,403,000 cases on relief in the country as a whole."

Textile Conference Starts on April 2

Two Hundred Delegates, Representing Governments, Employers and Workers in Textile Producing Nations, Will Attend International Meeting in Nation's Capital to Consider Shorter Hours and Allied Questions.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The Tripartite Preparatory Textile Conference convened by the International Labor Office to meet in Washington April 2, at the invitation of the United States Government, will be the first I. L. O. conference held in this country since the United States became a member of the International Labor Organization in 1934.

It is expected that about 200 delegates and advisers from the textile producing countries of the world will participate in the meeting, which will last a fortnight.

The only other I. L. O. conference ever held in the United States was the first International Labor Conference in 1919, which met in Washington upon the invitation of President Wilson.

All textile producing countries, including Germany, the only one not a member of the I. L. O., have been asked to send delegations consisting of government, employers' and workers' representatives, as well as advisers for each of these groups, to the textile conference.

Among the countries that have already accepted are: the United States, Great Britain, France, Belgium and Czechoslovakia.

40-Hour Week Is Main Topic

The agenda of the conference will include discussion of all aspects of the industry affecting the improvement of social conditions therein. It is hoped that, as a result of these discussions, the way may be paved for the adoption of a 40-hour week convention, or international agreement, at next June's session of the International Labor Conference.

An attempt to obtain such a convention in a single reading was made at the Conference last June. However, after the British Government and various employers' delegates had objected on the ground that the conference did not have at its disposal sufficient information regarding conditions in the industry on which to base such a convention, it was decided to follow the usual double-discussion procedure and postpone final action until this year.

Winant Suggested Conference

Immediately after this decision was taken, John G. Winant, former chairman of the Social Security Board, and Miss Frieda Miller of the New York State Department of Labor, the United States Government delegates, introduced a resolution calling upon the governing body of the I. L. O. to convoke a special preparatory conference for the industry. The idea was to bring together experts from all the textile countries to discuss the problems of the industry and try to reach a basis of accord.

Roosevelt Extends Invitation

The resolution was adopted by the conference and referred to the governing body at its regular quarterly meeting last November. After the governing body had decided to call the preparatory conference, Carter Goodrich, United States Government delegate, read an invitation from President Roosevelt to hold the preparatory conference in Washington. This invitation was promptly accepted.

A staff of experts from the I. L. O. Secretariat will sail shortly from Geneva for Washington to organize the conference, which will be held in the Labor Department Auditorium. Two official languages—English and French—will be used; but by means of a special telephonic system that is being installed delegates unfamiliar with those languages will be able to listen to translation in German, Spanish or Japanese.

60-Hour Week in Some Countries

"The United States is about the only country," the International Labor Office says, "in which the textile industry is now on a 40-hour week. In most other countries the weekly hours range from 48 to 60."

Experts declare that the textile industry is peculiarly suitable to regulation by international agreement. They point out that it is one of the industries emploing the largest number of workers—11 millions in some 20 countries; that it satisfies universal wants, and is subject to keen international competition.

Moreover, there is heavy unemployment in all its branches, and short time has been widespread for many years. The proportion of female labor employed also is particularly high.